

positive pole of said battery, respectively; and

wherein the first battery contact member comprises an elastic arm extending away therefrom, said arm being arranged to make electrical contact with an inner wall of the electrically conductive cover.

--10. (new) The camera of claim 9, wherein the arm is divided into three segments by first and second bending parts.

--11. (new) The camera of claim 10, wherein the first bending part is nearer the battery chamber than is the second bending part, and wherein the second bending part is arranged to make the electrical contact with the inner wall of the electrically conductive cover.--

REMARKS

The application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action acknowledges receipt of papers submitted under 35 USC 119, as well as the placement of such papers of record in the file.

The Official Action objects to the disclosure based on various informalities. The applicant has carefully reviewed the entirety of the application, and amended the same as necessary in order to eliminate all the identified bases for this objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are therefore respectfully requested.

The Official Action objects to the claims as being informal. The applicant has carefully reviewed all the claims, and amended the same as necessary in order to eliminate the identified bases for this objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are therefore respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The Official Action identifies the language in claims 1, 6, and 8 to be indefinite. Applicant has carefully reviewed and amended the identified claims in order to eliminate the bases for this rejection.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese reference 09-244117 to MITSUO. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The Official Action asserts that the MITSUO reference discloses all that is recited by the rejected claims, including a camera with a battery chamber, a cover with conductive properties, an arm having first and second bending parts and formed as part of the battery contact member, with the second bending part contacting the inner wall of the cover while the tip of the arm is spaced apart from the cover.

The first feature of the present invention recited in claim 1 as originally filed is "a cover for covering a part of said main body at least, said cover having conductivity". Such feature is apparently read on front cover 3 of MITSUO, described in the English translation as "a front cover 3 made of aluminum".

The next recited feature is "first and second battery contact members provided in said battery chamber, said first and second battery contact members coming in contact with a positive pole and a negative pole of said battery". Absent from the Official Action and apparently absent from the applied reference is any description whatsoever of "first and second battery contact members". The portion of the reference translated into English makes reference only to a battery cover without identifying the same. It appears from a review of the drawing figures that element 18 is a battery cover and element 39 is a battery. Considering the drawing figures and the translated portion of the text, the reference appears to be silent on the subject of battery contact members.

Applicant is left to assume that the various recited features of the present invention have been read on element 35 of MITSUO and the various subparts thereof. In this regard, applicant notes that element 35 not only fails to make contact with the poles of the battery, but also fails to make contact even with the electrical terminals of the capacitor 33. As is clear both from the drawing figures and the final sentence of the

English language portion, element 35 provides three functions, namely: providing a ground contact for the flexible base plate 37; mechanically holding the capacitor 33 in position; and providing a click-stop mechanism for the battery cover. Accordingly, the reference apparently fails to disclose the features recited in connection with the first and second battery contact members.

The final paragraph of independent claim 1 as originally filed recites "an arm formed in said first battery contact member, said arm being contacted with an inner wall of said cover by its elasticity". The recited arm is apparently being read on element 35c, which element does appear to make electrical contact with the aluminum front cover 3, as illustrated at least in Figures 1 and 5 of MITSUO. However, such arm is recited in claim 1 as being a part of the first battery contact member, which, as discussed above, appears to be entirely absent from the MITSUO reference.

The above analysis is offered in connection with the language of claim 1 as originally filed, even though the present amendment includes a modification of such language. Based on such, applicant respectfully suggests that the present anticipation rejection could not be maintained even against the claims as originally filed. For this reason, applicant respectfully requests that if the next Official Action includes the rejection of any of claims 1-8, such rejection be made non-

final, as the present rejection could not be maintained in any event.

In addition to the amendments described above, applicant has added new claims 9-11, comprising independent claim 9 from which claims 10 and 11 depend. Such new claims are believed also to recite features neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the prior art, and are therefore also believed to be allowable.

In light of the amendments discussed above, applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

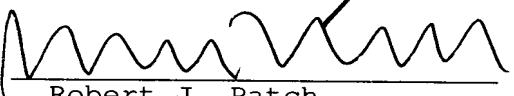
If the Examiner has any questions or requires further clarification of any of the above points, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney so that this application may continue to be expeditiously advanced.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version showing the changes made to the specification and claims. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By



Robert J. Patch
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 17,355
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 521-2297

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"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 2, the paragraph, beginning on line 28, bridging pages 2 and 3, has been amended as follows:

--The top of the main body has a battery chamber, to which the battery contact member is secured. The arm of the battery contact member [that] extends towards the cover [in slanting state] at a slant. The tip part of the arm is bended to form a contact part. As the tip of the arm is lowered down so as to keep away from the cover, it is unlikely to strike the edge of the cover while attaching the cover. When the contact part is pushed by the cover member, the arm is elastically deformed. Consequently an appropriate contact pressure is applied to contact the contact part with the cover member.--.

Page 4, the paragraph, beginning on line 4, has been amended as follows:

--In Figs._1 and 2, a camera 10 consists of a camera body 11, and a zoom lens device 13 having a taking lens 12. The camera body 11 is constituted of a main body 17, and a front cover 18 and a rear cover 19 that are mounted on the main body 17. The rear cover 19 is made from plastics in consideration of lightweight. [And] Furthermore, the front cover 18, which uses lightweight and conductive material such as aluminum alloy, is shaped by pressing.--;

Page 4, the paragraph, beginning on line 18, has been

amended as follows:

--There [are] is an opening 20 for exposing a liquid crystal panel and other openings for exposing a finder eyepiece lens, a power switch, a zoom switch and so forth on the rear cover 19. A battery chamber lid 22 is attached swingably to the top of the rear cover 19 and a loading lid 24 for a film cartridge chamber 23 is attached to the bottom of the rear cover 19. A battery chamber 25 for storing a battery 21 is attached to the upper right part of the main body 17.--.

Page 5, the paragraph, beginning on line 9, has been amended as follows:

--The rear cover 19 has an opening portion 34 for storing the main body 17. A periphery of the opening portion 34 [have] includes engaging projections 35 having a hole. Since pins (not shown) fixing on the front cover 18 insert through holes of the engaging projection 35, the front cover 18 is connected with the rear cover 19. The front of the front cover 18 has an opening portion 38 through which the zoom lens device 13 moves [forth] back and [backward] forth, and a cutout portion 39 for placing a diffusion plate 15a of the flash projector 15. Also a finder cover 40 and a grip projection 41 are fixed on the front cover 18. The grip projection 41 is arranged so that fingertips would be securely put on holding the left part of the camera body 11 with right hand. In addition to that, though the grip projection 41 is made by plastic-forming, it is preferred to be plated with

metal in order to have a unified feeling with the front cover 18.--.

Page 8, the paragraph, beginning on line 3, has been amended as follows:

--As shown in Fig._3 in detail, the battery chamber 25 consists of a storage portion 61 for storing the battery 21, mounting parts 62 and 63, and a plate portion 64 to cover the top of the film winding chamber 50 light-tightly. The storage portion 61 is roughly in the form of a cylinder with [backward] an open back. The battery 21 is loaded from a loading opening 61a. And the front side of the storage portion 61 has the brackets 59 for attaching the flash projector 15.--.

Page 9, the paragraph, beginning on line 24, bridging pages 9 and 10, has been amended as follows:

--The ground arm portion 74 is bent obliquely at a first bending part 74a and further bent at a second bending part 74b. The first bending part 74a is for touching the ground arm portion 74 in oblique state with the inner wall of the front cover 18. The tip of the ground arm portion 74 is lowered down [unless] to prevent the second bending part 74b [conflict] from conflicting with the edge of the front cover 18 upon assembling. The angle of the first bending part 74a is determined so that the ground arm portion 74 comes under an appropriate pressure to contact with the inner wall of the front cover 18.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

--1. (amended) A camera having a main body with a battery chamber which is loaded a battery for driving a taking mechanism, said camera comprising:

a cover for covering a part of said main body at least, said cover having conductivity;

first and second battery contact members provided in said battery chamber, said first and second battery contact members coming in contact with a [positive] negative pole and a [negative] positive pole of said battery; and

an elastic arm formed in said first battery contact member, said arm being [contacted] arranged to make contact with an inner wall of said cover [by its elasticity].--

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

--6. (amended) A camera as claimed in claim 5, wherein said arm has a second bending part formed between a tip of said arm and said first bending part, said second bending part being contacted with an inner wall of said cover, said tip of said arm being directed away from the front cover by the second bending part [being lowered] for preventing said tip from conflicting with said inner wall of said front cover.--

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Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

--8. (amended) A camera as claimed in claim 7, wherein said battery chamber is [roughly semi-cylindrical] partly arcuate in cross-section, with its rear open and both sides closed, said both sides having said first battery contact member and said second battery contact member.--